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Arboretum Ave.

Arboretum News

Spring 1999

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

The Next 50 Years of Plants and People – California Arboretum Foundation 1998-2048

Let's Welcome Our CEO!

In the Spring 1998 Newsletter it was announced that WE ARE UNIFIED! To complete our reorganization, we now have a NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Peter C. Atkins joins The Arboretum after serving as Botanical Curator of the renowned Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens, located at PepsiCo Inc. World Headquarters located in Purchase, New York.

In this position he was responsible for a multi-million annual expense and capital budget and managed all personnel responsible for horticulture, arboriculture, irrigation nursery and design.

Atkins' operation at the Gardens was unique in that all garden development and maintenance was outsourced, creating a tight unified approach to the management of the display gardens of ornamental plants and the outdoor 20th century sculpture collection. He comes to The Arboretum with 24 years of experience in corporate, not-for-profit, and academic environments.

"Peter Atkins was selected by The Arboretum search committee after an extensive nationwide search resulting in the screening of several candidates for the position," said Donivee Nash, President of the California Arboretum Foundation.

"Rod Cooper, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the County of Los Angeles, and I look forward to a new era at The Arboretum characterized by revitalized programs and physical plant," Nash continued, "Mr. Atkins' energy, enthusiam and experience will provide the leadership to turn our visions into reality."

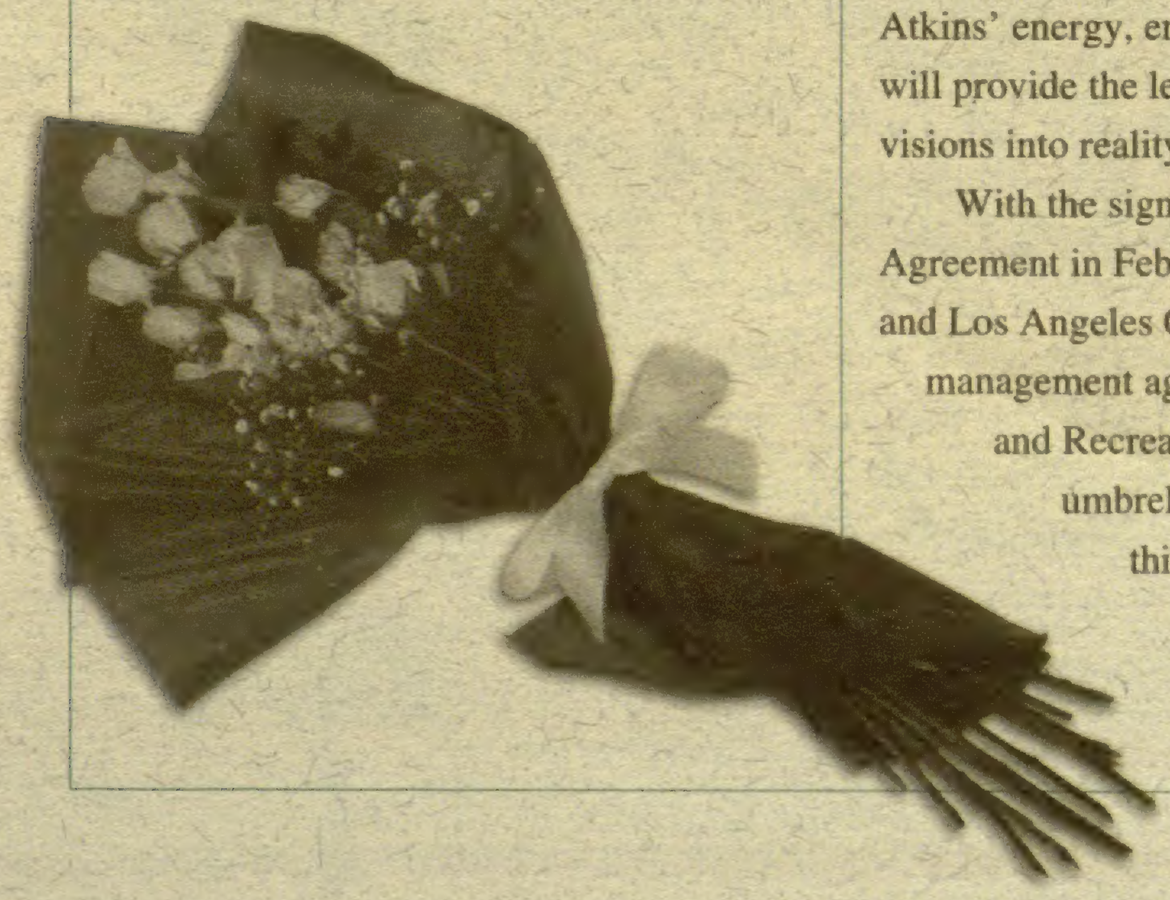
Photo: Clyde Reavis

"The Arboretum has developed a niche in its past that creates rich opportunities for the future. I am happy to be part of that future."

With the signing of the Operating Agreement in February 1998, the CAF and Los Angeles County enjoy a joint management agreement, with Parks and Recreation as the County umbrella department. With this agreement, and with the arrival of Atkins, all staff will now be working together under a single entity, The Arboretum of Los Angeles County.

"I make the move to Southern California, with my family, feeling a sense of adventure and purpose," said Atkins. "The Arboretum has developed a niche in its past that creates rich opportunities for the future. I am happy to be part of that future."

"The essence of our strategy is to create some 'firsts' at this institution. We have the staff ready to accomplish that. I have high expectations, and I have confidence that these expectations will be met."



Along Arboretum Paths

Along Arboretum Paths will take you to a different part of the Garden each issue.

To continue Along Arboretum Paths ... If you continue down the path past the Hugo Reid Adobe and the Santa Anita Depot, you will find The Arboretum Rose Garden on your right. The formal garden area is flanked by a small citrus grove. Here you will find both old roses and 20th Century hybrids accented against a backdrop of perennials and annuals such as lavender, sage and iris. The Rose Garden is framed by white trellis covered benches at either end with matching wood post border.

There are more than 60 varieties of roses represented. The location of each may be found on the planting diagram offered in brochure boxes at either end of the garden. Plants to note in this area are ***Punica granatum***, **Dwarf Pomegranate**, the small, triangular hedge on the right in the dirt roadway just east of the Rose Garden. This non-fruiting shrub produces pretty red orange blooms much of the year.

The tall citrus hedge on the right, bordering the road, is ***Citrus aurantium***, **Chinotto Orange**, a variety of the Spanish sour orange. The Chinotto is used in Europe for candying and is often marketed as the myrtle-leaf orange.

Behind the Chinotto hedge is a small grove of ***Citrus sinensis***, **Valencia Orange**. The Valencia variety of orange is the "juice orange" found in markets and is the most widely planted orange in the world.

The exceptionally tall palms growing in the Historical Section behind the Rose Garden are called ***Washingtonia robusta***, **Mexican Fan Palm**. This palm, native to Mexico, can reach heights in excess of 100 feet and has, at The Arboretum, grown to more than 120 feet tall, making our specimens some of the tallest in the continental United States.

In the same area is the "bearded" palm called ***Washingtonia filifera***, **California Fan Palm**. This Fan Palm is the only palm native to California and can be found growing wild throughout much of the Southern California area. It is also the palm from which the city of Palm Springs derives it name.

As we draw past the Rose Garden and begin the ascent to the Tallac Knoll, a group of evergreens appear on the grassy island to the right. These trees are the stately ***Sequoia sempervirens***, **Coast Redwood**. The Coast Redwood is native to the moist, coastal mountain ranges of northern California and can grow to a spectacular 365 feet, making it the world's tallest tree. This species of redwood is also one of the longest-lived trees with a life span of about 1,500 years, the oldest having lived for 2,200 years. Because of the drier climate our specimens will never attain the great heights their wild north coast brethren do. ❧

Compiled by Nelson Holmes

What's Blooming at The Arboretum?

The following is representative of the thousands of species and varieties in bloom over the next few months at The Arboretum:

MARCH

The **Bird-of-Paradise** (*Strelitzia reginae*) is the official flower of the City of Los Angeles. Along with the **Giant Bird-of-Paradise trees** (*Strelitzia nicolai*) it is in bloom for the next few months. It can be found near the Tropical Greenhouse. The "Juncea" is a variety whose thin leaves give it a unique, grassy look.

Most of the varieties of **Saucer Magnolia** (*Magnolia soulangeana*) are just now reaching peak bloom, and the best place to see them is in the Meadowbrook area. There are more than 35 specimens, representing ten varieties, of the **Tea Tree** (*Leptospermum scoparium* and *L. laevigatum*). These blooming pink, red and white shrubs can be seen throughout The Arboretum.

The strange looking **Grass Trees** (*Xanthorrhea quadrangulata*) found in the Australian Section produce spike-like white blooms. The **Yellow Trumpet Tree** (*Tabebuia chrysotricha*) can be found throughout The Arboretum. These blazing yellow trumpets break the decibel scale of showiness. Just as spectacular is the equally showy pink relative, the **Pink Trumpet Tree** (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*). The Arboretum has introduced two unique Tabebuia cultivars, the "Pink Cloud," and "Raspberry." They can be found throughout the Arboretum.

Camelia

Known as the "Freeway Daisy", this South African native the **Trailing African Daisy** (*Osteospermum*) was first introduced in 1958 by The Arboretum. Located in the Water Conservation Garden, the **California Lilac** (*Ceanothus varieties*) has showy blooms that provide a native herald of the change of seasons. At last count The Arboretum had 19 different varieties.

At least four varieties of the **Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos*) are also found in the Water Conservation Garden. Its white bells ring a silent tune of beauty. The **Blue Hibiscus** (*Alyogyne huegelii*) with dark blue hibiscus-like flowers can be found throughout the Garden.

The beautiful white flowers of the **Flowering Plum** (*Prunus blireana*) contrast with its dark green to purple foliage. The **Clivia miniata's** wonderfully orange-red blooms found in the Tropical Forest section takes the chill out of early spring.

The Arboretum hosts at least 90 different species and varieties of the **Aloe**. Most are in bloom at this time and can be found in various areas of the Garden. The ubiquitous lavender carpet, the **Rosea Ice Plant** (*Drosanthemum floribundum*) is quite at home in the African Section. The **Breath-of-Heaven** (*Coleonema pulchrum*), a South African native, has a soft, feathery foliage and profuse pink flowers. Also found in the African section are the showy Gerbera Daisies.

Leptospermum laevigatum

The **White Silk Fringe Tree** (*Chionanthus retusus*), when in bloom, appears as if it is coated in snow. **Snowball Viburnum** (*Viburnum macrocephalum*), a shrub with ice cream-like white blooms, is found near the Kallam Garden.

APRIL

Located in the Water Conservation Garden, the native **Bush Poppy** (*Dendromecon rigida*), has spectacular lemon yellow flowers. Found throughout the Garden, the **Ice Plant** (*Carpobrotus edulis*) is edible, but not highly prized. The **Red Hot Poker** (*Kniphofia uvaria*) is found in the African Section with its blooms starting in mid-spring.

The Meadowbrook area hosts several species of the **Princess Tree** (*Paulownia tomentosa*). Its fragrant blue trumpet-shaped flowers awe all who first see them. The **Sweet Shade** (*Hymenosporum flavum*), another fragrant favorite whose yellowish blooms emit a sweet odor intoxicating to the senses, is found in the Australian section.

On the West End of Tallac Knoll, the **Purple Orchid Tree** (*Bauhinia variegata*) sports profuse orchid-like blooms with butterfly-shaped wings. The

Continued on page seven

BALDWIN BONANZA XXIX

Festival of Plants

A FRIEND and FUNdraiser for The Arboretum of Los Angeles County.

Party, Plants and Auction

Friday, April 30, 1999
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
$40 per person

Gourmet grazing provided by: Abiento, Pasadena ❧ Arroyo Chop House, Pasadena ❧ The Parkway Grill, Pasadena ❧ Europane Bakery, Pasadena ❧ Pinot Restaurant and Martini Bar, Pasadena ❧ Hugo Molina Restaurant, Pasadena ❧ Simply Unique Catering, Arcadia ❧ Chez Sateau Restaurant, Arcadia ❧ The Kitchen for Exploring Foods, Pasadena ❧ Bistro 45, Pasadena

Look for your party invitation in the mail.

Wheelbarrow courtesy of Botanicals, La Canada. Photo: Clyde Reavis

Festival of Plants

Saturday, May 1
7 - 9 a.m. CAF Members Only
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Open to Public

Sunday, May 2
9 a.m. - 4:30 a.m. Open to the Public

Plants ❧ Shrubs ❧ Flowers ❧ Demonstrations
Children's Activities ❧ Design Gardens

Arboretum admission applies.
Foundation members free with membership card.
Memberships available at the door.

Photo: Ken Quigley

Lectures and Demonstrations

Saturday, May 1

9 - 10 a.m.

5 successful tips to growing clematis with special attention to container planting.

Edith Malek, Instructor

10 - 11 a.m.

How to use the flowers and foliage from the demonstration cutting garden in arrangements.

Fran Kopinski, Instructor

11:15 - 12:15 p.m.

Interior gardening and demonstration with houseplants.

Kelly Rubica, Instructor

1 - 2 p.m.

Demonstration on how to create your own water garden.

Marilyn Daly, Instructor

Sunday, May 2

11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Heirloom flowers: Timeless treasures and other garden oddities

Dawn Van Allen, Instructor

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

It's a bugs life!

Ayres Lawn

Fran Kopinski, Instructor

Create your very own bug to take home. Don't worry moms and dads, this bug is made out of floral material and conveniently "housed" in a bud vase. All material provided. Must be accompanied by an adult. For children ages 3 and up. *$10 per child and no cost to accompanying adult. Reservations required by calling 626-447-8207.*

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Interior gardening and demonstration with houseplants.

Kelly Rubica, Instructor

Photo: Clyde Reavis

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County

is a learning center which provides information and public service through classes and workshops, through its plant science library and plant information assistance, and, of course, through the plant collections themselves. Proceeds from Baldwin Bonanza Festival of Plants help to continue this long-standing commitment of bringing plants and people together.

A P.I.G. by any other name

Last year, in need of more classroom space, the Arboretum Education department set about the renovation of a greenhouse that was formerly used for the Arboretum Plant Introduction Program. Known as the Plant Introduction Greenhouse (P.I.G.), the renovation was concurrent with a new affiliation with Mt. San Antonio College and its propagation class.

At the same time, another endeavor was launched to begin propagation of Arboretum material to be made available at the annual Baldwin Bonanza Festival of Plants fund-raiser. The renovated structure is now called the Education Greenhouse, befitting its new look and new purpose.

Renovations have included what is essential to an operational greenhouse: a new irrigation system and new shade cloth, both installed by Mt. San Antonio College; also, a new shade compound has been created on the east side, and the west side is currently being upgraded. The Mt. SAC propagation class left us with many cuttings along with our own, currently tended by two student interns. Kevin Kane, Assistant Superintendent of The Arboretum, has assisted this project tremendously with donation of material, time, and talent.

What we grow in the Education Greenhouse will finally start to satisfy the many requests we hear for Arboretum plants. During your next Arboretum visit, be sure to include a stop at the Education Greenhouse where you can almost hear the plants as they grow! ❧

Photo Credits

Sometimes we forget to provide proper credits to photographers who so generously give their time at The Arboretum. In this issue of the Arboretum News, we salute and thank Clyde Reavis who, as he surveys the Garden, uses his camera to record people, plants and events. We would also like to thank Ken Quiqley who, in addition to Clyde Reavis, works closely with Arboretum botanist Dr. Jim Bauml in taking photo records of Arboretum plants and trees.

Turn Your Membership Benefits into Blossoms in Your Garden!

JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING PLANTING ... all members of the Foundation receive a 10% discount at the following nurseries:

ALTADENA NURSERY
1968 N. Lake Ave., Altadena

BURKARD NURSERIES, INC.
390 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena

DESERT TO JUNGLE NURSERY
3211 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello

FOUR SEASONS ORCHID CO.
823 S. San Gabriel, San Gabriel

GARDEN VIEW NURSERY
12900 Lower Azusa Rd., Irwindale

LAS TUNAS NURSERY
1155 E. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel

PLANT SYSTEM
2552 Hyperion Ave., Silver Lake

PRESENT PERFECT
140 S. Kinneloa Ave., Pasadena

ROGERS GARDENS
2301 San Joaquin Hills, Corona del Mar

SAN GABRIEL NURSERY
632 S. San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel

SMITH & HAWKEN
519 S. Lake, Pasadena

SOUTH PASADENA GARDEN CENTER
1507 El Centro, South Pasadena

STEWART ORCHIDS
3838 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City
3376 Foothill Blvd, Carpenteria ❧

Grow it! Green Thumbs Up

PROJECT Pollution PREVENTION

Grow a vibrant garden and lawn without harming local waterways and marine life.

Tips for pollution-free lawncare:

Never dispose of lawn or garden chemicals in storm drains. This is called illegal dumping. Take them to a household hazardous waste roundup. Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA to locate a roundup or collection facility near you.

More is not better. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. "Spot" apply rather than "blanket" apply. Purchase non-toxic products for your garden and lawn whenever possible. If you must store pesticides and fertilizers, make sure they are in a sealed, waterproof container that cannot leak.

When watering your lawn, use the least amount of water possible so it does not run into the street and carry pesticides and fertilizer chemicals with it. Do not fertilize or use pesticides before a rainstorm. You will not only lose the fertilizer, but also will be harming the environment.

Do not blow, sweep, hose or rake leaves or other yard trimmings into the street, gutter or storm drains. In fact, while sweeping your sidewalks, you should also sweep your gutters clean. Try "grass cycling" — leave your clippings on the lawn when mowing to decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients into the soil.

By following these easy steps, we can keep our lawns and gardens green, and, at the same time, help ease the pollution problem. ❧

Provided by the Environmental Programs Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

What's Blooming

Continued from page three

Himalayan Buckeye (*Aesculus indica*) has clusters of white flowers.

The Arboretum has eight different species of the **Yesterday-Today-And-Tomorrow** (*Brunfelsia*). These shrubs have a fragrant light to dark blue flower. The **Bottlebrush** (*Callistemon* and *Calothamnus*) boasts bright red brush shaped flowers. The red-flowered **Spear Lily** (*Doryanthes palmeri*) related to the yucca can be found in the northern part of the Australian section.

The **Canary Island St. John's Wort** (*Hypericum canariense*), a weeping green shrub, is now covered with clusters of bright yellow flowers.

Erythrina crista-galli

MAY

The **Jacaranda Tree** (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) lights up like large lavender blue flames. They are found throughout the Arboretum. The large bushy **Butterfly Bush** (*Buddleia davidii*) boasts white, purple, and pink spikes of flowers and can be seen in the Kallam Garden, Meadowbrook Area and the Water Conservation Garden.

Throughout The Arboretum you can see **Kangaroo Paws** (*Anigozanthos flavidus*) with furry flowers of gold, yellow, and pink. The **Guinea Gold Vine** (*Hibbertia scandens*) with its large cup-shaped yellow flowers on a deep-green tropical looking vine is found on various fences around The Arboretum.

A grove of **Cockspur Coral Trees** (*Erythrina crista-galli*) that produces crimson-red blooms for a long period can be found near Roots and Shoots. The **Smokebush** (*Cotinus coggygria*) has flower clusters resembling puffs of smoke that waft from purple-leaved bushes and the **Western Catalpa Tree** (Catalpa speciosa) produces showy clusters of large white flowers.

Enjoy what's blooming at The Arboretum during the months of March, April and May.

Compiled by Frank McDonough

Magnolia

Plant Quiz

1. What tree is shown on the back of the old $20 bill?
2. What wood has been used to make fine clarinets?
3. Which one of the following is in the wrong category?
   a) kangaroo paws b) tiger tooth
   c) lions tail d) lambs ear
   e) cats claw
4. What spice comes from the membrane around a nutmeg seed?
5. What tropical fruit has been described both as worth a voyage to the (Far) East and tastes like French custard passed through a sewer pipe?

Answers: 1. The Magnolia Tree (in front of the White House on the left. The tree was planted by Andrew Jackson in 1828.) 2. The Dalbergia melanoxylon, also called African blackwood or mpingo. 3. (b) 4. Mace 5. Durian

It's a Spring festival

Winter is over! Now is the time to decorate with
New Products from The Garden Shop

Lots of Decorator Items for the Home and Garden including:
Fabulous Pots ❧ Exciting Plants ❧ Fountains
❧ Ornamental Garden Accessories ❧ Tools ❧ Windchimes
❧ Easter Baskets - Bunnies and Eggs ❧ Hundreds of Book Titles
❧ Teak Furniture and Unusual Children's Patio Furniture

Bring the Family to our redecorated Shop
It's Spring and we have it all!

Visit the CAF Website at www.arboretum.org

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Plant Advice: (626) 821-3239

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is jointly operated by
the California Arboretum Foundation and the County of Los Angeles.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Peter C. Atkins

Dated Material